Evidence for Home Visiting Programs to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence and related Health Disparities

Linda Bullock, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor
University of Missouri
Sinclair School of Nursing
lbullock@missouri.edu
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• **Baby BEEP** – Nursing Smoking Cessation Intervention during Pregnancy (R01 NR05313) Bullock, L., PI

• **Baby BEEP for Kids** – Nursing support: Better Infant Outcomes in Violent Homes (R01 HD045542) Bullock, L., PI

• **DOVE** – Domestic Violence Enhancement Home Visitation program (R01 NR009093) Sharps, P., PI; Bullock, L. MO site PI
Points to Remember

• If intimate partner violence (IPV) is present during pregnancy and not addressed by the Home Visitor – maternal/child outcomes are not as good
• IPV is more common during pregnancy than many health problems screened for and impacts the health of mother and baby
• We know what an effective Home Visiting IPV intervention looks like: **DOVE**
• Decreasing childhood exposure can impact children’s development and school readiness
Prenatal Home Visiting Programs

• Recent research has shown that HV programs may not be as effective if IPV is occurring and not addressed\(^1\)
  – Current HV’ing programs usually do not include a formal IPV protocol (e.g. Family Nurse Partnership, Parents as Teachers etc.)

• HV programs have reduced poor pregnancy outcomes, improved parenting skills and improved child development\(^2\)
  – Education and support main ingredients of intervention

EXAMPLE OF SUPPORT

“\(\text{I would say the entire situation, collaborative of shelter, home visitor, DOVE, talking about all of these issues and all of them intertwined together has helped me parent differently.}...\)” (27-yr old, separated, woman, Dove study)

“\(\text{I think that, the support was the biggest thing when dealing with, you know, the problem about it.}\)” (22 yr old rural married woman, DOVE study)

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\(^1\)Eckenrode, J. et al. (2000). *JAMA, 284*(11), 1385-1391.

Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy

- Incidence of IPV during pregnancy is between 4 – 8% or 156,00 to 332,000 women/year
- 34% of the women in the Baby BEEP study were abused the year before and/or during pregnancy
- Abuse during pregnancy increases the risk of the women being murdered by her intimate partner 3-fold

WOMEN FEEL ISOLATED AND DO NOT TALK TO ANYONE

“... when I first started this I just wanted to talk to somebody. And I made, and I knew that you’re confidential. I just wanted to tell somebody how I was feeling. ... You guys kept really giving me a lot of advice, but I mean, you make me feel like I wasn’t by myself anymore....” (24 yr old, rural, married woman, DOVE study)

... “(the study) made me realize how dangerous a situation I was in and how much worse it really was than I even realized. I knew it was a bad situation, but never realized it was that bad or how many different types of abuse I had experienced.” (27 yr old, rural, separated woman, DOVE study)

Health Effects of IPV during Pregnancy

Associated with poor outcomes

– Unsafe sex practices/unplanned pregnancy
– Late entry into prenatal care
– Poor weight gain
– Placental abruption/uterine rupture/infections
– Increased substance abuse
– Mental Health issues – depression, anxiety and PTSD

Health Effects for Infants whose Mothers are Abused

Most consistent evidence of IPV on fetus:

• Low Birth weight $^{1,2}$
• Preterm delivery $^3$
• Infant Mortality $^3$

**Domestic Violence Enhanced Home Visitation Program (DOVE)**

- **PURPOSE:** To test an empowerment intervention during pregnancy and immediately post-delivery to reduce IPV in rural and urban prenatal home visitation programs and in the NFP program.

- **WHAT IS DOVE:** The DOVE intervention is a highly-structured nurse-administered domestic violence home visitation program, designed to educate mothers and reduce their overall risk for violence during pregnancy and post-partum. It is being tested using home visitors in Missouri (rural) and Baltimore (urban)
DOVE IPV Intervention: Evidence-based

• Dutton’s Empowerment model ¹
  – Protection, a focus on increasing women’s safety
  – Enhanced choice making and problem solving

• Parker and McFarlane 10-minute intervention²
  – Structured, brochure-based intervention
    • Flexible and can be implemented in different programs
    • Cycle of Violence
    • Risk factors for women and infants
    • Options (leaving, using shelter, accessing resources)

Lessons Learned about Implementing DOVE

• Preparation for the DOVE Study: The Town (Home Visitors) and Gown (Research team) Partnership
  – The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MoDHSS) extremely supportive of identifying IPV and working with the research team
  – Team conducted 5 different workshops regarding screening for IPV with the home visitors over a two-year period
  – Team continues to make frequent visits to the DOVE sites and goes over the research protocol with trained HVs and new staff
ISSUES WITH HOME VISITORS

• Challenges of delivering DOVE intervention\(^1\)
  – Many of the MO Home Visitors lacked educational preparation – Baltimore nurses part of research team
  – MO HVs had a lack of understanding of the importance of screening for intimate partner violence
  – Home visitors own experience with IPV

  – TAKE HOME MESSAGE!

TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING

Important Findings: Baby BEEP for Kids and DOVE studies

• Research has shown exposure can cause lower cognitive functioning, limited problem solving and risk taking behavior
  – May be seeing these problems in Baby BEEP for Kids and DOVE women
    • Poor relationship with their own mothers
  – Also seeing:
    • Increased perinatal mortality
    • Increased health care utilization
    • Poor verbal skills at 2 years of age

HOME VISITING MUST INCLUDE THE VERY YOUNG CHILDREN!